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FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 3, 1954

Lane Timmons called to see me this morning. He has been whipsawed in FOA to the extent where he he does almost the whole work of the French Mission to the detriment of his health. He seems to me to be on the verge of a physical collapse. A great injustice has been done him over a period of time in not having made him Chief of Mission, since he has taken the burden of most of its substantive work. He is an extraordinarily competent man but has made the mistake of remaining with one job too long and making himself indispensable. Harold Stassen has continued him as Deputy apparently with the thought of replacing Labouisse by a political appointee, which would simply add to Timmons' burdens. He is going home next week to take the Foreign Service examinations and during his absence I have no idea how the work of the Economic Minister of the Embassy and that of the Acting Chief of the FOA Mission will be carried on. Don McGrew, the Treasury man, has been invaluable in this situation, but he is going on home leave the first of October.

I talked to Jim Conant on the telephone this morning. He had an idea I should go around the circuit and make an estimate of reactions in the various countries to proposals for conferences, and to discuss plans alternative to EDC. I told him I thought it would be premature for anyone to make such visits now, and that I particularly would be an inappropriate person even if the time were right to do so, since again the charge might be levied that the U.S. Government, through me, was attempting to bring about the isolation of the French Government. Now he will probably recommend the designation of Livie Merchant for this purpose.

John Leacocas, of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, called on me and we had the usual review of German rearmament.

Cornelia and Arthur Lane, Leonora Corbett, Arabella Symington, the Raileys, Bert Jolis, and Denise Dennery had lunch with us. Previously I had had a talk with

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Arthur Lane in my office about the Italian situation. I sat next to Denise, whose husband has just been transferred from his jot as Ambassador to Poland to his new post at Berne. She is close to elements in the Foreign Office [redacted] antagonistic to the EDC and questioned me thoroughly as to what I thought would eventuate in the way of policy toward Germany. I dealt with the inquiry as objectively as I could, pointing out the difficult position into which it seemed to me the French rejection of EDC had plunged us all, since there was no alternative which promised to be readily acceptable and satisfactory.

Von Walther, of the German Mission, came to see me this afternoon. He said Hallstein would like me to meet Blankenhorn and him in Brussels tomorrow, where they intended to see Spaak. I explained the impossibility of my doing so, first because I was going to Majorca on that day, and, secondly, because I thought my disassociation -- certainly at this time -- from post-EDC deliberations would be in the best interests of all concerned. We had a long talk about possible courses of action, but none appeared exempt from formidable objections.

Just before dinner, Von Walther called at Rue Alfred Dehodencq to advise me of Hallstein's intention to see me in Paris tomorrow morning.

Monsieur Pernet came to see me at the house, and we had an agreeable conversation about antiques.

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